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Lambda Letters Project

Vol. 14, No. 10 October, 2006 www.lambdaletters.org LambdaLP@aol.com (916) 728-1261

A Record Month!

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

LLP members and friends delivered 111,519 letters and e-mails to elected officials in August—more than in any other month since our founding in 1988. Just since the beginning of 2000, we delivered almost 1.75 million letters and e-mails to elected officials.

Earlier this year we signed up with CapitolTrack to help find and track the bills that relate to our issues. One benefit of their services is that we now get a much more precise picture of what we attempted and what we accomplished. For example, in 2006 we took a supporting position on 157 bills. Eighty-three of those bills were approved by the legislature and sent to Governor Schwarzenegger. That is a 53% success rate.

Many of those bills were very controversial and had significant opposition. For example, we supported a bill requiring textbooks in public schools to contain no material that belittles the LGBTI community (SB 1437). We supported a bill allowing for the distribution on condoms in California's prisons in order to slow the spread of HIV among prisoners (AB 1677). We also supported a bill that would allow certain undocumented immigrant to obtain limited-use driver's licenses (SB 1162). All of these bills made it to the governor's desk for his

Continued on page 8

Can You Sponsor an Event?

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

For years we have fought for LGBTI rights because we believe the LGBTI community is entitled to the same rights as the rest of the world. But the Lambda Letters Project has discovered that there are important economic benefits to those rights as well, particularly for domestic partners. It turns out that investing in social justice lobbying is a smart investment in our futures.

I recently reviewed the savings that my domestic partner and I have accrued since we registered as domestic partners in 2000. I discovered that we had saved over $30,000 by taking advantage of the benefits made possible by the various domestic partner bills passed by the state legislature since that year.

I hope to explain these benefits and how others can obtain them at a series of meetings around the state. I hope that these events can also be occasions to encourage those in attendance to contribute to Lambda Letters so we can continue our important work together.

Would you be able to organize a meeting in your area that I could come to and talk about this subject? We would need at least 20 people at the event to make it practical for me to visit your town or city.

If you would like to sponsor an event such as this, please contact me at (916) 728-1261 or at *LambdaLP@aol.com*, or by writing to me at Lambda Letters Project, 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Thank you.

Attend Our Board Meeting

You are invited to attend the board meeting of the Lambda Letters Project.

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 4, from noon until 4 PM.

The meeting will be held at the Shriner's Hospital in Sacramento on 2425 Stockton Blvd., between X and Y Streets.

There is plenty of free parking behind the hospital. When you arrive, ask for our room number at the desk in the main lobby.

Come join us. See the board in action. Provide your input to the decisions being made by the board of the Lambda Letters Project.

Also in This Newsletter

HIV/AIDS Issue 3, 9
People of Color Issue 3
LGBTI Issue 3, 8
Women's Issue 4
Economic Issue 4
October Legislative Update 5–8
Administrative Assistant Position at LLP 9

Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

August, 2006	111,519 letters
In all of 2006	297,208 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

August, 2006	$10,407
In all of 2006	$74,854

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Our Mission

To promote the social, economic, and human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex individuals, couples, and families; people affected by HIV/AIDS; people of color; women; and people of low economic status. We urge elected officials to enact and support legislation that accomplishes this goal.

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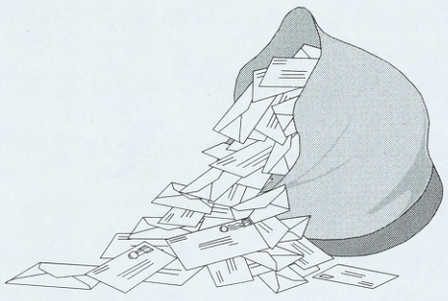
The Lambda Letters Newsletter is published monthly, except in December, by Lambda Letters Project Inc., 6529 Cowboy Way, Citrus Heights, CA 95621.

Send address changes to Lambda Letters Project, 3726 Madison Avenue #1, San Diego, CA 92116 or e-mail aeire.stickney@lambdaletters.org.



Discrimination Complaints

Have you experienced employment discrimination because of your actual or perceived sexual orientation or because of your age (40 and over), ancestry, color, creed, disability, marital status, medical condition, national origin, race, religion, or sex? Have you been denied family and medical care leave or pregnancy disability leave? If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212. The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Governor Stops Needle Exchange Bill

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

This month we ask that you write to the governor. Tell him you are upset that he stopped an important clean-needle and syringe exchange program bill.

The bill is AB 2076. It was approved by the legislature and was ready to be delivered to the governor for his signature. However, the bill's author, Assemblymember John Laird (D–Santa Cruz), stopped the bill from going to the governor at the last minute because the governor made it clear that he would have vetoed the bill.

AB 2076 would have codified current state policy, which allows state general funds for HIV prevention to support locally authorized needle-exchange programs. It would also have allowed these programs to use state funds to purchase sterile needles and syringes, which the state does not currently permit.

Current State Department of Health Services (DHS) policy allows state HIV prevention and education funds to be used for costs associated with authorized needle-exchange programs, except for the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes. The available sources of funding for the purchase of sterile needles and syringes have been decreasing.

According to the state Office of AIDS, injection drug use continues to be one of the most prevalent risk factors for new HIV and AIDS cases in California. An annual report issued by the Office of AIDS within the California Department of Health Services reveals that sharing of contaminated syringes and other injection equipment is linked to 20 percent of all reported AIDS cases in the state through 2003. State data suggests that over 1,500 new syringe-sharing HIV infections occur annually. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that it costs roughly $195,188 to provide lifetime care to a person infected with HIV.

The legislature responded to the spread of HIV among injection drug users by adopting AB 136 (Chapter 762, Statutes of

Continued on page 9

People of Color Issue

Governor Must Not Ignore Our Racist Past

By Marty Martinez, Legislative Analyst

Governor Schwarzenegger has vetoed an important bill, SB 1765 (Martha Escutia, D– Montebello). This bill would have allowed the survivors of the 1930s deportations program to seek justice through the appropriate legal channels.

There were many illegal and racist deportations of both non-citizens and citizens during the 1930s without verification of citizenship status. Many of these deportees were people of color from Mexico. Most were deported for nothing more than being of the wrong race or ethnicity.

Throughout the Great Depression, the federal government carried out an aggressive and illegal program to deport nearly two million Americans of Mexican descent, effectively violating their constitutional and civil rights. Many of those were legal US citizens. State and local governments, including California, were deeply involved in this outrage as well.

Governor Schwarzenegger signed SB 670 (Joseph Dunn, D–Garden Grove) last year, which issued a formal apology to the victims and their families. However, he vetoed a companion measure, SB 675 (also by Dunn), which would have created a reparations fund for the survivors.

SB 1765 was another attempt to make amends for our past mistakes. But the governor again vetoed it. Please write to the governor and tell him he must sign legislation to this effect next year.

LGBTI Issue

End Hate Speech in the Assembly

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please write Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez and Assemblymember de la Torre, Chair of the Assembly Rules Committee, and ask them not only to curb anti-LGBTI rhetoric but also prohibit LGBTI hate speech in the Assembly. Certain conservative Assemblymembers have been freely scorning the LGBTI community, calling them "sexual deviants" and saying other inflammatory things about them.

Assemblymember Dennis Mountjoy (R–Monrovia) is one prime example. In a press release dated April 28, 2006, he proudly states that "homosexuality is wrong and not a 'normal' way of life." He posts that quote on his official website too (shortcut link: *snipurl.com/wr9j*).

The First Amendment certainly grants Mountjoy the right to publish this on his website. If he had made racist, anti-Semitic, or sexist comments instead, he would have certainly been censured and shunned by his fellow Assemblymembers.

This venomous hate speech does not stop at the website.

During the debate about SB 1827—the State Income Tax Equity Act of 2006 authored by Senator Carole Migden (D–San Francisco)—joint tax filing for domestic partners was discussed. Mountjoy and Assemblymember Jay La Seur (R–La Mesa) called the bill an advancement of the "homosexual agenda" and Mountjoy called homosexuals sexual deviants.

In fact, the debate became so venomous that the Democrats in the Assembly had to

Continued on page 8

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Women's Issue

Require Virus Vaccinations for Girls and Young Women

By Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist

The following information comes from a press release issued by the US Centers for Disease Control on June 29, 2006. Based on its contents, we ask you strongly to write to Jack O'Connell, the secretary of public instruction in California.

Urge him to recommend to schools that they add the HPV (human pappillomavirus virus) vaccination to the list of vaccinations required of girls who are enrolling in school aged 11–12 or older. HPV is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women.

According to the release, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that a newly licensed vaccine designed to protect against human papillomavirus virus (HPV) be routinely given to girls when they are 11–12 years old.

The advisory committee also noted that the vaccination series can be started as early as nine years old at the discretion of the physician or health care provider. The recommendation includes girls and women 13–26 years old because they will benefit from getting the vaccine. The vaccine should be administered before onset of sexual activity (that is, before women are exposed to the viruses) but females who are sexually active should still be vaccinated.

"This vaccine represents an important medical breakthrough," said Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. "As a result, these vaccine recommendations address a major health problem for women and represent a significant advance in women's health. It has been tested in thousands of women around the world and has been found to be safe and effective in providing protection against the two types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers."

Gardasil, manufactured by Merck, is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions, and genital warts due to HPV, which causes genital warts in men and women.

The vaccine is highly effective against four types of the HPV, including two that cause about 70 percent of cervical cancer. Those who have not acquired HPV would get the full benefits of the vaccine. On average, there are 9,710 new cases and 3,700 deaths from cervical cancer in the US each year.

According to the press release, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection in this country. More than 20 million men and women are currently infected with HPV and there are 6.2 million new infections each year.

HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early 20s. By age 50, at least 80 percent of women will have acquired HPV infection.

"Although an effective vaccine is a major advance in the prevention of genital HPV and cervical cancer, it will not replace other prevention strategies, such as cervical cancer screening for women or protective sexual behaviors," said Dr. Schuchat "Women should continue to get pap tests as a safeguard against cervical cancer."

Based on these recommendations, we urge you to write to Superintendent O'Connell. He must encourage schools to require vaccination for HPV.

Economic Issue

Governor Signs Wage Increase!

By Shirin Buckman, Legislative Analyst

Please write the governor and thank him for signing AB 1835, which increases the minimum wage $1.25 per hour over a span of two years. The current minimum wage is $6.75. The bill raises the minimum wage to $7.50 on January 1, 2007, and to $8 on January 1, 2008. There has not been a minimum wage increase in California since 2002. Thank the governor for agreeing to an increase in wages.

According to the bill's analysis, two million California families rely on public assistance, even though one or more family members work. That costs the state over $10 billion per year. If all workers in the state now earning less than the new minimum wage earned a minimum of $8 per hour, public assistance program costs would be reduced by $2.7 billion. Additionally, there are currently 1.4 million workers in California earning a minimum wage, many on public assistance. An increase in income could not only help them become financially independent, but it would also encourage more spending. That would help the economy.

According to a study done by the Institute of Industrial Relations at UC Berkeley—entitled "How Will an Increase from $6.75 to $7.75 in the California Minimum Wage Impact the California Economy?"—increasing the minimum wage will have very little effect on the operational costs of doing business. "The average establishment would experience about a one-and-a-half percent increased wage expense due to an increase in the minimum wage... Ninety-nine percent of establishments face overall cost increases that are less than five percent." (*http://repositories.cdlib.org/iir/iirwps/iirwps-124-05/*)

The same report finds that the cost increases to businesses are very modest, except in the accommodations and food services industry. However, these industries should be able to pass the cost increases on to consumers through price increases."

The governor vetoed minimum wage increases for the last two years for fear that it would aggravate a slumped economy. Please write him this year to thank him for not vetoing it again.

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October Legislative Update

August 31 was the final day for the legislature to meet this year. All bills to be passed this year had to be passed by both houses of the legislature and sent to the governor by that date. The governor had until September 30 to decide whether to sign or veto the bills or let them become law without his signature.

The status line for each bill in the following list tells you whether or not the bill made it out of the legislative houses and was sent to the governor for signature or veto. In a few cases you will see that the governor did sign or veto the bill. However, it was necessary to submit this list to our newsletter editor by mid-September. The governor had not yet announced his decision on most of these bills by that time. The November issue of this newsletter will have the final outcome on all of the bills.

Here is the status of the bills as of mid-September.

HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 1677 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To allow nonprofit agencies to distribute condoms in state prisons.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2076 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To allow local governments to use HIV prevention and education general funds received from the state to pay for supplies for needle-exchange programs.
Status: Approved by the legislature but later dropped without sending it to the governor because of his threatened veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2280 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow a doctor of a patient with gonorrhea or other sexually transmitted infection to prescribe medicines for the sexual partner or partners of the patient without examining those partners.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1341 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To change the deadline currently in place on a law which allows thrift stores selling goods to support programs for people with HIV/AIDS to not charge a sales tax on the goods sold. These thrift stores would be allowed to sell items without charging sales tax until January 1, 2012.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1471 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To stipulate that sex education classes operated by the state or receiving state funds should be complete, medically accurate, age-appropriate, and should not express bias on any of several bases including sexual orientation.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SJR 22 (Jackie Speier, D–San Mateo)
Purpose: To ask Congress to approve federal legislation meant to speed the development of a microbicide to prevent the transmission of HIV and other diseases.
Status: Enacted. Governor's signature not needed.
LLP Position: Support.

Economic Issues

AB 75 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To establish the California Rx Plus State Pharmacy Assistance Program. Any licensed pharmacy or drug manufacturer could enter the program. The state would negotiate drug discounts with them on behalf of people on a limited income.
Status: Failed. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 1778 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To allow parents to prohibit schools from releasing information about the parent's children to US military recruiters. Students may overrule their parents on this point.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1835 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To increase the minimum wage to $7.50 per hour, effective July 1, 2007, and to $8.00 per hour, effective July 1, 2008.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1851 (Joe Coto, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To delete a deadline in current law that allows participating health, dental, or vision plans to assist people in signing up for the Healthy Families Program. The plans would be allowed to continue doing this.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1971 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To require health insurance companies to contribute funds to support a state program to provide health insurance to those rejected by private health insurers because of the person's medical history. Would also require insurers to provide limited coverage and less expensive health insurance coverage until January 1, 2008
Status: Failed. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 2004 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To suspend Medi-Cal health care benefits for a juvenile who is sentenced to jail but require the state to assure that those benefits are re-established as soon as the youth is released from jail. Also would require the state to help inmates being released to apply for Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program if their eligibility for these programs had not already been established.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2040 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the state to provide summer and Saturday dates for taking the high school exit exam. if money is provided in the state budget.
Status: Failed.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2192 (Karen Bass, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow certain drug offenders to qualify for CalWORKs benefits under certain conditions.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2339 (Mark Ridley-Thomas, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Colorectal Cancer Treatment Program to provide outreach, education, prevention, and treatment of colorectal cancer in low-income men.
Status: Failed.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2466 (Lynn Daucher, R–Brea)
Purpose: To allow recipients assets in a 401(k), IRA, 403(b), 457 plan, Coverdell ESA, or 529 college savings program to be excluded when determining whether a person is poor enough to qualify for CalWORKs, but only for those already enrolled in CalWORKs.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2469 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To require the state to pay counties with 250,000 or fewer residents an amount annually equal to that previously paid by the county for in-home supportive and personal care services provided to people who are qualified aged, disabled, or blind persons on low incomes.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2489 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow any county office of education, or consortium of school districts, together with a county office of education, to apply for state grants to pay for operating educational services to foster children. Also would establish a program of higher education grants for foster children.
Status: Failed.
LLP Position: Support.

Continued on page 6

Legislative Update

Continued from page 5

AB 2536 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To apply state laws on eight-hour workdays and 40-hour work weeks, as well as on overtime pay for additional hours worked, to work done by certain personal attendants in the home.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2576 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To require gas and electric utilities to allow limited-income customers to use one application form to apply for any of the various discount programs for which they may qualify.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2877 (Dario Frommer, D–Glendale)
Purpose: To require the state to achieve cost savings in its public health programs by using more generic drugs. Also requires the state to establish a website with information on sources, within the United States, of low-cost prescription medicines.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 160 (Gil Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow undocumented immigrants, who qualify already for in-state tuition at California's public universities and colleges, to qualify also for student aid to pay tuition, provided they meet the other qualifications for such aid.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 840 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To provide health insurance for every resident of California.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1124 (Tom Torlakson, D–Concord)
Purpose: To provide financial assistance to those seeking teaching credentials in California.
Status: Failed.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1288 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To require Medi-Cal to cover residential and outpatient drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs for minors age 12 or older, but only if the state can persuade the federal government to cover part of the costs.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1335 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)
Purpose: To require annual, unannounced inspection visits of facilities which provide residential care for children who are under the supervision of a county welfare or probation agency.
Status: Failed. **LLP Position:** Support.

SB 1383 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To allow college students to qualify for a Cal Grant scholarship if they complete all the requirements needed to graduate from high school or get an equivalency diploma prior to December 31 of the year in which they apply for the grant. The grant would become effective at the beginning of the semester after which it was approved. Previously the Cal Grant application had to be approved before they started college.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1534 (Richard Alarcon, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To affirm the right of local governments to provide health care and other services to undocumented immigrants.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

LGBTI Issues

AB 606 (Lloyd Levine, D–Van Nuys)
Purpose: To require school districts to establish and publicize an anti-discrimination policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment based on gender identity and sexual orientation, among other things.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1056 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the State Board of Education to integrate instruction on tolerance into existing English language, and social science curriculum. Would establish these requirements as a pilot program in 10 schools.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1160 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To establish court rules that reduce the chance of defendants using panic strategies as a way of evading conviction, or to reduce their sentence in trials for hate crimes based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Also requires the state to create training manuals on the subject of panic defense if money is available for them.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1207 (Leland Yee, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To add to the pledge contained in the Code of Fair Campaign Practices that the candidate shall not use gay-bashing or transgender-bashing in their political campaigns.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1897 (Mervyn Dymally, D–Compton)
Purpose: To allow the State Personnel Board to order the state to pay a complainant's reasonable attorney's fees when the state engaged in illegal employment discrimination.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2051 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To revise a domestic abuse grant program to include the LGBT community for certain purposes of the grant program. The bill would also require membership on a domestic abuse advisory council to include representatives of the LGBT community. The registration fee for domestic partners would be raised to $23 to cover the costs of the new programs.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2386 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To require the secretary of state to post on his website a list of candidates for public office who have signed a voluntary pledge to abide by a Code of Fair Campaign Practices during an election campaign. Would also require that the pledge be printed in ballot pamphlets and that the pamphlets mention that a list of candidates who took the pledge can be found on the secretary of state's website.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2550 (Sam Blakeslee, R–San Luis Obispo)
Purpose: To require that any qualified member of the California National Guard or a widow, widower, or spouse of a qualified member (but not a domestic partner) be awarded additional preference points for any civil service employment.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support if amended to add domestic partners.

AB 2800 (John Laird, D–Santa Cruz)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, among others, in housing and housing-related areas.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2920 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To require the state to require that each area agency on aging include the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors in their needs assessment and area plans, and require the state to provide technical assistance to the area agencies on aging for the training regarding the unique needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender seniors.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1437 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit instruction or school-sponsored activities that reflect adversely upon persons because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
Status: Vetoed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1441 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To ban sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination in programs operated or funded by the state.

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Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1827 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To allow registered domestic partners to file joint or separate California Income Tax forms.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

People of Color Issues

AB 432 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To authorize a new citizen to register and vote at a location designated by the county until the polls close on Election Day.
Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. **LLP Position:** Support.

AB 680 (Wilma Chan, D–Oakland)
Purpose: To require the state Board of Education to monitor school districts to make sure that, when 15% or more of the pupils enrolled in a public school speak a single primary language other than English, all notices, reports, statements, or records sent to the parent or guardian of the pupil by the school are written in that language and may be responded to either in that language or English.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 1076 (Jerome Horton, D–Inglewood)
Purpose: To encourage public schools to teach children about World War II and the role of Filipinos in that war.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2060 (Hector De La Torre, D–South Gate)
Purpose: To require the Department of Community Services and Development to contract with, and allocate funds to, organizations to provide free naturalization services to would-be citizens.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2227 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To require the Judicial Council to establish a court interpreters advisory panel to assist the council in performing its duties.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2302 (Assembly Judiciary Committee)
Purpose: To require the courts to provide interpreters in a wide variety of civil cases when a party to the proceeding is limited English proficient unless the party provides his or her own interpreter.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2420 (Ted Lieu, D–El Segundo)
Purpose: To require state agencies, when collecting demographic data, to specifically collect data for Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Tongan, other Asians, and other Pacific Islanders, along with any other categories of people.
Status: Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1160 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To permit the issuance of limited-use driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants in conformance with federal law.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1162 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To permit the issuance of limited-use driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants in conformance with federal law.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1267 (Gilbert Cedillo, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To establish the Office of Immigrant Affairs to ensure the integration and civic participation of new citizens in the state. Would allow this office to enter contracts with nonprofit groups and fund their activities which help the integration of new citizens.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1329 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To encourage the opening of retail stores that sell healthy food in limited-income neighborhoods.
Status: Failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1405 (Nell Soto, D–Ontario)
Purpose: To establish the Task Force on Reimbursement for Language Services to develop and adopt a mechanism for seeking federal matching funds to pay for language assistance services, including oral interpretation services and translation of written materials, for the population that is limited English proficient and that is enrolled in Medi-Cal.
Status: Approved by the legislature but later dropped without sending it to the governor because of his threatened veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1569 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To extend eligibility for certain state and local benefits, including, but not limited to, refugee cash assistance, Medi-Cal, and employment social services, to qualified noncitizen victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and other serious crimes who are taking steps to qualify for certain federal benefits.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1575 (Joe Dunn, D–Garden Grove)
Purpose: To require schools to teach children about the unconstitutional deportation of US citizens and legal residents of Mexican American heritage during the 1930s.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1765 (Martha Escutia, D–Norwalk)
Purpose: To allow Mexican-American citizens who were illegally deported during the 1930s or 1940s, or their heirs, to seek monetary compensation from the state of California.
Status: Vetoed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 525 (Judy Chu, D–Monterey Park)
Purpose: To strengthen laws regarding the reporting of emotional child abuse likely to do serious emotional damage to a child.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2066 (Sally Lieber, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To require the Department of Corrections to create a Female Reform Master Plan and do other things to contribute to the rehabilitation of women inmates.
Status: Died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2084 (Betty Karnette, D–Long Beach)
Purpose: To make improvements in the laws relating to the operation of domestic abuse shelters.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2139 (Bonnie Garcia, R–El Centro)
Purpose: To require a police officer responding to a domestic violence complaint to inform the victim that he or she can ask the officer to request an emergency restraining order against the perpetrator.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2169 (Cindy Montanez, D–Mission Hills)
Purpose: To extend to 2013 the deadline for termination of a program designed to protect domestic violence victims from stalkers by keeping key information about the victims confidential.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2251 (Noreen Evans, D–Santa Rosa)
Purpose: To prohibit anyone from posting on the Internet any information about the addresses, home phone numbers, or picture of any employee, volunteer (or their family members), or patient of a reproductive health services facility with the intent of causing bodily harm.

Continued on page 8

Legislative Update

Continued from page 7

Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2317 (Paul Koretz, D–West Hollywood)
Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to conduct the Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders (PMAD) Awareness Campaign, using private donations to pay for it, to increase awareness and provide education to pregnant women and new mothers on postpartum mood and anxiety disorders.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2555 (Jenny Oropeza, D–Carson)
Purpose: To increase the penalties for employers who pay employees of one sex less than those of the other sex for the same work.
Status: Vetoed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2583 (Joe Nation, D–San Rafael)
Purpose: To require pharmacies to post visible signs in their stores informing women of their rights to prescription drugs and devices that have been legally prescribed.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2695 (Jackie Goldberg, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To allow an employer to seek a restraining order against a person who committed domestic violence, when that domestic violence occurred in the workplace. Also would extend indefinitely the right to pay no fee for serving restraining orders in many cases.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

AB 2781 (Mark Leno, D–San Francisco)
Purpose: To regulate the activities of private child support collection agencies in order to protect the adult seeking child support. Would also require the person who owes child support to pay the cost of the private collection agency's fees.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

ACA 24 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To increase the income tax on income above $1 million per year and require that the extra taxes taken in this way be used to support domestic violence shelters.
Status: Failed.
LLP Position: Support.

ACR 99 (Rebecca Cohn, D–Campbell)
Purpose: To declare the month of October 2006 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Status: Enacted. Signature of the governor not needed.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1245 (Liz Figueroa, D–Fremont)
Purpose: To require that insurance companies or health care providers pay for the HPV test as part of the annual cervical cancer screening test.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1260 (Deborah Ortiz, D–Sacramento)
Purpose: To require that a doctor, before harvesting eggs from a woman for research purposes, obtain her written consent and provide her with information on health and consumer issues related to the process.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1402 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: Under current law charges of rape cannot be prosecuted unless they have been reported within one year of the date on which the rape occurred or unless it has been corroborated by independent evidence. This bill would remove these impediments to prosecution of rape charges.
Status: Signed by the governor.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1491 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To prohibit any agency making grants to domestic abuse service providers from requiring, as a condition of the grant, the disclosure of identifying information about the clients they serve or requiring the use of computer programs or systems that require the disclosure of this information.
Status: Signed by the governor
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1743 (Debra Bowen, D–Redondo Beach)
Purpose: Under current law when a person petitions the court for a legal change of name to try to escape notice of an abuser, the petition and the court's order to show cause must be published. This bill would waive the requirement that the petition be published when the petitioner is a participant in an address confidentiality program.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SB 1745 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Los Angeles)
Purpose: To state that employment and housing discrimination against the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking is against the public policy of the state.
Status: Sent to the governor for signature or veto.
LLP Position: Support.

SJR 19 (Elaine Alquist, D–San Jose)
Purpose: To urge Congress and the president to uphold the Roe v. Wade decision of the United States Supreme Court.
Status: Failed.
LLP Position: Support.

A Record Month!

Continued from page 1

signature or veto. The fact that we are willing to take on the tough issues suggests that a 53% success rate is pretty good.

As this newsletter went to print, the governor had not yet taken action on most of the bills that we supported and that were sent to him. So far, however, he signed 22 of them and vetoed three of them. Four other bills were approved by the legislature and did not need the governor's signature. Some of these bills were signed much earlier this year and so no longer appear in the Legislative Update in this newsletter.

We think the ratio, so far, of 26 bills supported to four vetoed is a good record. The huge volume of mail that you—our members—sent to elected officials over the year had a great deal to do with that.

The deadline for the governor to sign, veto, or allow bills to become law without his signature was September 30. To see the final outcome of these bills, visit *lambdaletters.org* and click the Legislative Update link in the left column. Note the status of each bill to the right of its listing; if the governor signed the bill, or if he let it become law without his signature, the status will say "Chaptered."

LGBTI Issue

Continued from page 3

call a recess to end the debate. Never mind that there are several Assemblymembers who are members of the LGBTI community. Never mind that during the African-American HIV/AIDS initiative, nobody accused their African-American counterparts of pushing an "African-American agenda." Those words are not even on a website of an elected official in the California Assembly. Why is the LGBTI community any different?

Please ask Assemblymembers Núñez and de la Torre to work harder to prohibit hateful speech against the LGBTI community. If codified rules against hate speech were written into the rules of the Assembly and were properly enforced, with penalties for violations, homophobic Assemblymembers would be prevented from saying things that were hurtful to a population living in California.

California is a state that values all people living within its borders. It is time that the legislature reflect the values of its state and restrict the hate-mongering right now.

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HIV/AIDS Issue

Continued from page 3

1999), permitting localities to determine whether or not to operate clean needle and syringe exchange programs. Many localities are now operating such programs. These programs have been shown to reduce significantly the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne infections among injection drug users, their sexual partners, and their children. Moreover, these programs have been effective in moving individuals into drug treatment programs and in reducing the number of used needles disposed in public places, which pose a threat to public health and safety.

Recognizing the effectiveness of needle-exchange programs, the legislature passed and the governor signed AB 547 (Chapter 692, Statutes of 2005), which eliminated the statutory requirement of a local emergency declaration by a public entity in order to operate a needle-exchange program. Before the passage of this bill, in order to establish and maintain the program, local governments had to declare a health emergency and then re-declare it every two weeks. AB 547 eliminated that requirement.

The federal government prohibits the use of federal funds to support the purchase of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes by clean needle and syringe exchange programs. To date, the state has also prohibited the use of its general funds to purchase these supplies. The ability of clean needle and syringe exchange programs to purchase an adequate supply of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes is essential to California's ability to reduce further the transmission of HIV and other blood-borne diseases and to relieve the public cost for the treatment of these diseases.

The use of state general funds to purchase clean needle and syringes for authorized needle-exchange programs is not unprecedented. Ten states currently expend these funds for this purpose: Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

This bill would have substantially aided local efforts to reduce the rate of HIV transmission through injection drug use in California by authorizing the use of state funds for the purchase of clean hypodermic needles and syringes. Any funds that would have been expended for clean needles and syringes would have come from existing appropriations for state HIV prevention funds. Therefore, this bill would not have increased funding and would have, in effect, made counties prioritize how they will expend prevention funds. One of these choices might have been to purchase needles and syringes, which could result in significant savings for state-funded health programs. Because of the governor's opposition, this will now not be possible.

Please write to the governor. Tell him he made a mistake. Urge him to support similar legislation next year.

Open Position Announcement

Administrative Assistant

Lambda Letters Project (LLP), a statewide organization, uniquely offers Californians direct access to the legislative process in order to affect public policy in five areas of concern: HIV/AIDS; economic justice issues; LGBTI issues; people of color issues; and women's issues. We provide sample letters and e-mails each month. Lambda Letters Project has a Legislative Advocate who works full-time on behalf of the community. Last year Lambda Letters Project delivered over 353,000 letters and e-mails to California legislators. For more information, please visit *www.lambdaletters.org*.

The Administrative Assistant will provide administrative support services in the LLP Sacramento office and reports to the Chair of the Lambda Letters Project or designee.

Responsibilities

- Maintaining electronic and paper files, entering member and donor information into LLP database, processing new memberships and member renewals, coordinating monthly mailings to the Lambda Letters membership, redirecting incoming mail to appropriate parties, coordinating member and donor appeal mailings, and performing general clerical tasks
- Providing phone coverage for reception, participating in the planning and implementation of projects as needed
- Responding to written and telephone inquiries, composing and sending thank-you notes to donors and members as needed
- Hand-delivering LLP materials to legislative offices
- Miscellaneous administrative duties as determined by the LLP Board

Qualifications

- 3-5 years of administrative or related experience
- Excellent organizational, written, oral and listening communications skills
- Ability to work independently and multitask with a high degree of proficiency in project and time-management
- Ability to work with many different personalities and work styles
- Demonstrated ability to achieve high performance goals and meet deadlines
- Strong interpersonal skills and independent decision-making capacity
- High functioning, organized self-starter
- Positive approach, ability to follow directives, can-do attitude, and sense of humor.
- Some donor software and database experience required. Must be proficient in Microsoft Office software, particularly database management and mail-merge functions.

Compensation

The Administrative Assistant is a part-time hourly position (approximately 20 hours per week). Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please send cover letter, business letter writing sample, three (3) letters of reference and resume to Pat Washington, The Lambda Letters Project, 4537 Alamo Drive, San Diego, CA 92115, or e-mail these to *pat.washington@lambdaletters.org*.

Women, members of racial-ethnic and LGBTI communities are urged to apply. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. Please no phone calls.

LLP is an equal opportunity employer.

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